



# IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

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## MEMEORANDUM

TO: Public Health Districts 1 and 2

FROM: Dave Jeppesen, Director *DJS*

RE: Declaration of Crisis Standards of Care

DATE: September 7, 2021

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Please find the attached, Declaration of Crisis Standards of Care for Public Health Districts 1 and 2.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's (DHW) senior leadership were informed by Kootenai Health that conditions exist in North Idaho which warrant declaration of the Crisis Standards of Care. Severe shortage of staffing and available beds caused by a massive increase in patients with COVID-19 are overwhelming North Idaho's healthcare facilities. All options for addressing resource limitations have been pursued, yet there still exists a critical deficiency. The Crisis Standards of Care Activation Committee convened on Sept. 6, 2021 and recommended that Crisis Standards of Care be activated.

Pursuant to IDAPA 16.02.09.120, healthcare entities in Public Health Districts 1 and 2 may operate under Crisis Standard of Care pursuant to their own Crisis Standards of Care policies. Affected healthcare entities are further recommended to use the guidance contained in the Crisis Standard of Care Plan and the Patient Care Strategies for Scarce Resource Situations, both of which are available on the state's COVID-19 website, [www.coronavirus.idaho.gov/idaho-resources/](http://www.coronavirus.idaho.gov/idaho-resources/).

DHW and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) will work closely with healthcare entities that implement Crisis Standards of Care to receive resource requests and continue to pursue all options for obtaining those resources as urgently as possible. To this end, DHW and IOEM will continue to monitor shortages daily and review options for addressing those shortages.

The activation of Crisis Standards of Care will remain in place until such time as the Crisis Standard of Care Activation Committee determines that the conditions warranting the Crisis Standards of Care no longer exist. At that time, the Committee will make a recommendation for the deactivation of Crisis Standards of Care.

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE  
DECLARATION OF CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE**

**PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICTS 1 AND 2  
DATE OF DECLARATION: September 6, 2021**

The Director of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (the “Department”) is authorized by Idaho Code § 56-1003(3) to exercise general supervision and promotion and protection of the health of Idahoans. Further, pursuant to its authority under Idaho Code § 56-1003(2), the Idaho Board of Health and Welfare approved the Crisis Standards of Care for Health Care Entities contained in IDAPA 16.02.09.

Crisis standards of care provide guidelines that help healthcare providers and systems decide how to deliver the best care possible under the extraordinary circumstances of an overwhelming disaster or public health emergency. The guidelines are used when there are not enough healthcare resources to provide the usual standard of care to people who need it. The goal of crisis standards of care is to extend care to as many patients as possible and save as many lives as possible.

Implementation of crisis standards of care (CSC) are meant to be a measure of last resort. Activation of the crisis standards of care means that all other options for addressing resource limitations have been explored.

The following conditions exist which support activating CSC:

Idaho is presently experiencing its greatest surge of COVID-19 positive hospital cases to date. The influx of mostly unvaccinated COVID-19 positive patients are draining the limited resources of our state’s healthcare system.

The situation in North Idaho is particularly dire. As such, Kootenai Health in Coeur d’Alene requested CSC be implemented. As of September 6, 2021, Kootenai Health reported their highest ever number of COVID-19 in-patients at 113 with 39 of these patients in the ICU and 21 of those on a ventilator. The combination of regular ICU patients plus the COVID-19 ICU patients has pushed them far above their ICU capacity. This number of patients has exacerbated existing staffing shortages, required Kootenai health to stop all non-emergency surgeries, to decline taking 392 transfer patients from other regional hospitals over the last 3 months and moved the health system above their bed capacity with patients now being boarded in a converted conference room. The Crisis Standard of Care Activation Committee (the “Committee”) convened on September 6, 2021 and recommended the activation of CSC in the Panhandle and Northern Central Health Districts (Districts 1 and 2).

**Therefore, pursuant to IDAPA 16.02.09:**

1. Crisis Standards of Care are activated for Panhandle and Northern Central Health Districts (Districts 1 and 2)
2. Healthcare entities in those two districts may implement CSC as needed and in accordance to their own CSC policies.
3. Affected healthcare entities are recommended to consult with the guidance on Crisis Standard of Care Plan and the Patient Care Strategies for Scarce Resource Situations, both of which are housed on the state’s COVID-19 website, [www.coronavirus.idaho.gov/idaho-resources/](http://www.coronavirus.idaho.gov/idaho-resources/).

4. The Department and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management will continue to work closely with healthcare entities that have implemented crisis standards of care to receive resource requests and continue to pursue all options for obtaining those resources as urgently as possible.

**IT IS SO DECLARED:**



DAVE JEPPESEN, DIRECTOR  
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Dated: September 6, 2021